Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A sandwich structure for protecting a fixed or mobile installation or equipment, said sandwich structure comprising:

an outer plate made of a **first** ~~very~~ ductile material and designed to resist first impacts of projectiles, ~~the outer plate having a full surface and a constant thickness over all said full surface~~,

an inner layer made from a **second** ~~very~~ hard material to stop projectiles that passed through the outer plate, **the second hard material being harder and less ductile than said first ductile material,**

spacers for disposing the outer plate at a distance from the inner layer, so that no part of the outer plate has any contact with the inner layer, and,

fixing means for **detachably** fixing the outer plate to the inner layer at the location of the spacers.

2. (cancelled.)

3. (currently amended) The sandwich structure according to claim 1, further comprising:

conducting elements ~~distinct~~ **separate** from the outer plate, said conducting elements being **detachably** fixed to said outer plate and extending between the outer plate and the inner layer to provide electrical continuity between the outer plate and the inner layer, each conducting element having a bore, and,

attachment screws disposed in said bores at a distance from the inner layer for fixing the conducting elements to said outer plate.

4. (cancelled.)

5. (previously presented) The sandwich structure according to claim 1, wherein the inner layer is made of steel and the outer plate is made of aluminum.

6. (previously amended) The sandwich structure according to claim 1, wherein each spacer has a hollow tubular shape, and is provided with a threaded bore designed to hold an attachment screw fixing the outer plate onto the spacer.

7. (previously amended) The sandwich structure according to claim 1, wherein each spacer is provided with a threaded bore having a first end and a second end, said threaded bore being designed to hold, at said first end, an attachment screw fixing the spacer onto the inner layer and, at said second end, an attachment screw fixing the outer plate onto the spacer.

8. (cancelled.)

9. (currently amended) The sandwich structure according to claim 1, wherein the ~~spacers have bores~~ **outer plate has holes** for the passage of the fixing means therethrough, at least some of said ~~bores~~ **holes** ~~being oblong~~ **loosely receiving said fixing means for enabling differential expansion of said outer plate and inner layer when the temperature changes**.

10. (currently amended) The sandwich structure according to claim 9, wherein the **spacers have** bores **which** are threaded and the fixing means include screws.

11. (cancelled)

12. (cancelled)

13. (previously added) The sandwich structure according to claim 1, wherein the outer plate has an entirely flat shape.

14. (previously added) The sandwich structure according to claim 3, wherein the conducting elements are flexible to enable differential dilatations between the outer plate and the inner layer.

15. (currently amended) A sandwich structure for protecting a fixed or mobile installation or equipment, said sandwich structure comprising:

an outer plate made of a **first** ~~very~~ ductile material and designed to resist first impacts of projectiles, the outer plate **being free of ribs** ~~having a full surface and a constant thickness over all said full surface~~,

an inner layer made from a **second** ~~very~~ hard material to stop projectiles that passed through the outer plate, **the second hard material being different from, harder and less ductile than said first ductile material,**

spacers interposed between the outer plate and the inner layer for disposing the outer plate at a distance from the inner layer, so that no part of the outer plate has any contact with the inner layer, said spacers having bores, and,

fixing means for **detachably** fixing the outer plate to the inner layer at the location of the spacers, said fixing means extending through said bores and through holes of the outer plate, at least some of said bores and holes **loosely receiving said fixing means for enabling differential expansion of said outer plate and inner layer when the temperature changes**.

16. (currently amended) The sandwich structure according to claim 15, wherein the outer plate has a peripheral edge, and at least one of the spacers is interposed between the outer plate and the inner layer, at a distance from said peripheral edge **and said spacers create voids between the outer plate and the inner layer, the voids are free from any filler, so that said voids are empty.**